

Integrated Resource Planning Process

Challenge: Ensure that electric utility Integrated Resource Plans (IRPs) clearly demonstrate and reflect access to energy supplies at the lowest practical environmental and economic cost and that demand-side options are pursued wherever economically and environmentally practical.

Background: Electric utility IRPs vary. A robust analysis is important to accurately demonstrate the lowest practical environmental and economic cost for consumers statewide. This analysis should consider economic and environmental metrics; a minimum set of alternative resource portfolios; a minimum set of alternative scenarios for analysis; joint dispatch of generating resources; and coordinating the construction of new electricity generation.

Approach: The Energy Office should establish a committee to study matters related to the IRP process including the costs and benefits that can be achieved by changes to the IRP process. The study committee should consist of representatives from investor-owned utilities, Santee Cooper, the electric cooperatives, conservationists, and other interested stakeholders.